[24th July 1953

Alleged prohibition of the use of some books by local board libraries.

* 1009 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there is any order prohibiting panchayat and district board libraries from using books written by certain particular Tamil writers, and if so, the names of the authors and the reasons for prohibiting the same?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"The member is referred to the answer to question No. 1006."

Price of rice in Visakhapatnam.

* 1010 *Q.*—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state what is the plan of the Government to check the rapid rise in the price of rice in Visakhapatnam district in recent months?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"The Government have issued instructions to all the Collectors including the Collector of Visakhapatnam to adopt one or more of the following measures to check the tendency in the rise in the price of rice in the open market :—

(1) To be on the watch to find out cases of cornering of stocks by merchants and to requisition such stocks.

(2) To open more fair price shops in areas where prices show a tendency to rise abnormally.

(3) To ensure that all fair price shops hold adequate stocks for issue to the consumers at the prescribed scale when demanded.

"The Government have also ordered that the scale of rice ration should be increased from 4 ounces to 6 ounces per adult per day in the old statutorily rationed areas of Visakhapatnam and other districts with effect from 28th June 1953.

"The Collector of Visakhapatnam has been permitted to open fair price shops in the urban areas and taluk headquarters stations also and to issue 4 ounces of rice plus 6 ounces of other grains through such shops."

Pay of surgeons in Local Fund hospitals.

* 1011 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the scale of pay of Assistant Surgeons and Surgeons working in local fund hospitals and why it is different from that of Assistant Surgeons and Surgeons in Government Hospitals?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The following are the scales of pay of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed under local bodies :—

Assistant Surgeons—

Graduates : Rs. 150—10—350.

Licentiates : Rs. 100—10/2—200.